



**California Energy Commission  
June 11, 2025 Business Meeting  
Backup Materials for Energy Conservation Manual for the 2025 Energy Code**

The following backup materials for the above-referenced agenda item are available as described below:

1. Proposed Resolution, attached below.
2. CEQA Memo, attached below.
3. Notice of Exemption, attached below.
4. Backup document memo, attached below.

For the complete record, please visit:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-BSTD-03>.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE ENERGY RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

*IN THE MATTER OF:*

**2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards,  
California Code of Regulations, Title 24,  
Parts 1 and 6**

**Docket No. 24-BTSD-03**

**RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE ENERGY CONSERVATION MANUAL FOR THE  
2025 ENERGY CODE**

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 Energy Code, amending California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 1 and 6, were adopted by the California Energy Commission (CEC) on September 11, 2024, with an effective date of January 1, 2026, and

**WHEREAS**, these standards were approved by the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) on December 17, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Warren-Alquist Act, in Public Resources Code section 25402.1(e), requires the CEC to certify “an energy conservation manual for use by designers, builders and contractors of residential and nonresidential buildings” no later than 180 days after CBSC approves the Energy Code; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to implement the requirement of section 25402.1(e), CEC staff has developed an energy conservation manual (ECM) that is comprised of several documents, including residential and nonresidential compliance manuals, residential and nonresidential alternative compliance method reference manuals, a data registry requirements manual, and other compliance forms, all of which contain information to assist designers, builders, and contractors in demonstrating compliance with the 2025 Energy Code, including forms, charts, and other data; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 Energy Code that was adopted by the CEC and approved by the CBSC, specifies, among other things, the requirement to create, maintain, and update the Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manuals, Compliance Manuals, Data Registry Requirements Manual, and Compliance Documents, which comprise the ECM; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of developing the ECM, CEC staff developed new content for the Single-family Alternative Calculation Reference Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2025-006 and the Nonresidential and Multifamily Alternative Calculation Reference Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2025-007 (collectively the “ACM Reference Manuals”), which document the modeling methods used in the 2025 compliance software, which demonstrates performance compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of developing the ECM, CEC staff developed new content for the Single-family Compliance Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2025-005, the Nonresidential Compliance Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2025-008, and the Multifamily Compliance Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2025-009 (collectively the “Compliance Manuals”), which act as references and instructional guides to aid in demonstrating compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of developing the ECM, CEC staff developed new content for the Data Registry Requirements Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2025-004, which acts as a resource for data registry providers to meet requirements in the 2025 Energy Code; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of developing the ECM, CEC staff developed new content for Compliance Documents, which are used to demonstrate compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to develop the updated ECM, CEC staff invited people with knowledge of and interest in the 2025 Energy Code to review and comment on the updated ECM, and revised the ECM to respond to the comments that were received; and

**WHEREAS**, CEC staff has considered the application of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to the ECM and finds that the ECM does not meet the definition of a “project” under Cal. Code Regs., Title 14, section 15061(a), because the ECM has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and even if the ECM was to be considered a project, then the project would fall under the “common-sense exemption” in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the ECM would have a significant effect on the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the CEC has considered staff’s proposed updates to the ECM and finding that its adoption is exempt from CEQA; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that on the basis of the entire record before it, the CEC hereby adopts staff’s finding that the ECM is not subject to CEQA because it does not meet the definition of a “project” as it is not an activity that has the potential for

resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and even if it was a project, it is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Common-Sense Exemption (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, 15061(b)(3)) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the California Energy Commission hereby certifies the Single-Family Alternative Calculation Reference Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2025-006, used to support compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Energy Commission hereby certifies the Nonresidential and Multifamily Alternative Calculation Reference Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2025-007, used to support compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Energy Commission hereby certifies the Single-family Compliance Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2025-005, used to support compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Energy Commission hereby certifies the Nonresidential Compliance Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2025-008, used to support compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Energy Commission hereby certifies the Multifamily Alternative Compliance Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2025-009, used to support compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Energy Commission hereby certifies the Data Registry Requirements Manual, Publication Number CEC-400-2025-004, used to support compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Energy Commission hereby certifies the Compliance Documents, used to demonstrate compliance with the 2025 Energy Code; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the California Energy Commission directs the Executive Director or their designee to take all actions reasonably necessary to make the above-referenced documents available and in good form, including but not limited to correcting typographical and other non-substantive errors.

### **CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned Secretariat to the CEC does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CEC held on June 11, 2025.

AYE:  
NAY:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

Dated:

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Kim Todd  
Secretariat

# Memorandum

To: Docket 24-BTSD-03

Date: June 11, 2025

From: **Will Vicent, Deputy Director**  
**Efficiency Division**  
California Energy Commission

Subject: *Basis for Finding that the Energy Conservation Manual (ECM) is not a project or is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the Common-Sense Exemption.*

## I. CEQA

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, sections 21000 *et seq.*; see also CEQA Guidelines, Cal. Code Regs. (CCR), tit. 14, sections 15000 *et seq.*) requires that state agencies consider the environmental impact of their discretionary decisions. CEQA allows for certain projects to be exempted from its requirements. Of relevance here, and discussed further below, is the common-sense exemption (14 CCR section 15061(b)(3)).

## II. The Energy Conservation Manual (ECM) [Pub. Resources Code, section 25402.1(e)]

Public Resources Code Section 25402 requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to adopt building design and construction standards that increase the efficiency of energy and water use for new residential and new nonresidential buildings, and energy and water conservation design standards. The standards are contained in Part 6 and associated administrative regulations in Part 1 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (Energy Code). Further, Section 25402 requires the Energy Code to be cost-effective when taken in its entirety and when amortized over the economic life of the structure when compared with historic practice.

No later than 180 days after approval of the Energy Code by the California Building Standards Commission, the CEC must certify an energy conservation manual for use by designers, builders, and contractors of residential and nonresidential buildings. (Pub. Resources Code, section 25402.1(e).) The manual shall contain, but not be limited to, the following: (1) The standards for energy conservation established by the CEC, (2) forms, charts, tables, and other data to assist designers and builders in meeting the standards, (3) design suggestions for meeting or exceeding the standards, (4) any other information which the CEC finds will assist persons in conforming to the standards, (5) instructions for use of the computer program for calculating energy consumption in residential and nonresidential buildings, (6) the prescriptive method for use as an alternative to the computer program.

## III. The Proposed Action

On September 11, 2024, the CEC adopted amendments to the Energy Code, as authorized and directed by Public Resources Code 25402. On December 17, 2024, the California Building Standards Commission approved the 2025 Energy Code. The 2025 Energy Code will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

On September 11, 2024, the CEC adopted the Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration for the 2025 Energy Code. The CEC considered air emissions, water savings at California power plants, indoor air pollution, and increased materials use associated with the 2025 Energy Code. The Negative Declaration concludes that the potential environmental impacts associated with implementing the 2025 Energy Code are less than significant without need for mitigation. Thus, the Negative Declaration proposes no mitigation measures.

To implement the requirement of section 25402.1(e), CEC staff developed an Energy Conservation Manual (ECM) that is comprised of several documents, including Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manuals, Compliance Manuals, a Data Registry Requirements Manual, and other Compliance Documents, all of which contain information to assist designers, builders, and contractors in meeting the 2025 Energy Code, including forms, charts, and other data. The CEC is considering certifying the ECM at the June 11, 2025, CEC Business Meeting.

#### **IV. The ECM is not a project.**

CEQA only applies to an action “that has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.” (14 CCR section 15061(a).)

As discussed above, the CEC certifies an energy conservation manual to provide information and guidance to assist interested persons in demonstrating compliance with the Energy Code, pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 25402.1(e). The ECM does not impose any new requirements and, therefore, has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Accordingly, the ECM does not meet the definition of a project under CEQA.

#### **V. If the ECM was considered a project, it is exempt from CEQA under the Common-Sense Exemption.**

The ECM is exempt from CEQA under the Common-Sense Exemption. As stated above, CEQA only applies to projects that have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment. “Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.” (14 CCR section 15061(b)(3).) A “significant effect on the environment” is defined as a “substantial, or a potentially substantial, adverse change” in the environment, and does not include an economic change by itself. (Pub. Resources Code, section 21068; 14 CCR section 15382.)

The ECM is designed to help building owners, architects, engineers, designers, energy consultants, builders, enforcement agencies, contractors and installers, and manufacturers comply with and enforce the 2025 Energy Code. The ECM is a reference and instructional guide that reiterates the regulatory language already contained in the 2025 Energy Code. The

ECM contains no new requirements to comply with the 2025 Energy Code. As such, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the ECM may have a significant effect on the environment, thus making it subject to the common-sense exemption in 14 CCR section 15061(b)(3).

## **VI. Conclusion**

As shown above, it can be seen with reasonable certainty that the proposed update to the ECM is not a project because it does not impose any new requirements and, therefore, has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. If the ECM was to be considered a project subject to CEQA, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the ECM may have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, is exempt pursuant to the Common-Sense Exemption under 14 CCR section 15061(b)(3).

## Notice of Exemption

TO: Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, California 95814

FROM: California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Title: Energy Conservation Manual (ECM)

Project Location: 715 P Street Sacramento, California 95814

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Public Resources Code, section 25402.1(e) directs the California Energy Commission (CEC) to certify an energy conservation manual for use by designers, builders, and contractors of residential and nonresidential buildings no later than 180 days after approval of the updates to Parts 1 and 6 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (Energy Code).

To implement the requirement of section 25402.1(e), CEC staff developed an energy conservation manual that is comprised of several documents, including alternative calculation method reference manuals, compliance manuals, a data registry requirements manual, and other compliance documents, all of which contain information to assist designers, builders, and contractors in demonstrating compliance with the 2025 Energy Code, including forms, charts, and other data.

The CEC developed new content for the Single-family Residential Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual and the Nonresidential and Multifamily Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manual (ACM Reference Manuals), which document the modeling methods used in the 2025 compliance software for demonstrating performance compliance with the 2025 Energy Code.

The CEC developed new content for the Single-family Residential Compliance Manual, the Nonresidential Compliance Manual, and the Multifamily Compliance Manual (Compliance Manuals), which provide references and instructional guides to aid in compliance with the 2025 Energy Code.

The CEC developed new content for the Data Registry Requirements Manual, which is a resource for data registry providers to aid in the design and implementation of software procedures and user interface features for their data registries that meet the requirements in the 2025 Energy Code.

The CEC developed new content for the Compliance Documents, which are used to demonstrate compliance with the 2025 Energy Code.

The CEC certified the ACM Reference Manuals at the June 11, 2025, CEC Business Meeting.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Energy Commission

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption: State type and section number: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Statutory Exemption: State code number: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other: Common-Sense (Sec. 15061(b)(3))

Reasons why the project is exempt:

The Energy Conservation Manual (ECM) is not a project because it does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15061(a)). The CEC certifies an ECM to assist interested persons with demonstrating compliance with the Energy Code, pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 25402.1(e). The ECM provides information regarding the 2025 Energy Code, which was previously adopted on September 11, 2024, and approved by the California Building Standards Commission on December 17, 2024. The ECM does not impose any new requirements and, therefore, has no potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Accordingly, the ECM does not meet the definition of a project under CEQA.

Further, even if the ECM was considered a "project," it would not be subject to CEQA under the "common-sense" exemption (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15061(b)(3)) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the action may have a significant effect on the environment. The ECM acts as a reference and instructional guide that reiterates the regulatory language already contained in the 2025 Energy Code. The ECM contains no new requirements to comply with the 2025 Energy Code. Thus, it can be seen with certainty that the ECM does not have the potential to have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person

Will Vicent, Deputy Director  
California Energy Commission  
(916) 628-1556  
Will.vicent@energy.ca.gov

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Signed by the Lead Agency

Date received for filing by



# Memorandum

**To:** Commissioners

**Date:** June 11, 2025

**Telephone:** (916) 903-4685

**From:** Will Vicent, Deputy Director  
Efficiency Division  
California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento CA 95814

**Subject:** Approval of the Energy Conservation Manual for the 2025 Energy Code

## **Background**

Proposed resolution certifying Energy Conservation Manual (ECM), which is required by Public Resources Code section 25402.1(e), and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA. The ECM acts as a reference and instructional guide to aid in the design and construction of energy efficient buildings. The ECM consists of Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manuals, Compliance Manuals, the Data Registry Requirements Manual, and Compliance Documents. The manuals and compliance documents can be downloaded from the [2025 Energy Code Compliance Software, Manuals and Forms](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-BSTD-03) docket [<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-BSTD-03>].

- a. Alternative Calculation Method Reference Manuals. The 2025 Single-family Residential Alternative Calculation Method (ACM) Reference Manual and 2025 Nonresidential and Multifamily ACM Reference Manual are used to provide modeling descriptions used to demonstrate performance compliance with the 2025 Energy Code.
- b. Compliance Manuals. The 2025 Single-family Residential Compliance Manual, 2025 Nonresidential Compliance Manual and 2025 Multifamily Compliance Manual serve as references and instructional guides to help designers, builders, and contractors comply with the 2025 Energy Code.
- c. Data Registry Requirements Manual. The 2025 Data Registry Requirements Manual is a resource for data registry providers to aid in the design and implementation of software procedures and user interface features for data registries that meet 2025 Energy Code Reference Joint Appendix 7 requirements.

- d. Compliance Documents. The 2025 Energy Code compliance documents are used by the building industry and local jurisdictions to record compliance with the 2025 Energy Code.

### **Project Manager**

Nikhil Kapur, Supervisor, Standards Tools Development Unit

Haile Bucaneg, Senior Mechanical Engineer, Standards Tools Development Unit

### **Oral Presentation Outline**

Staff will be available at the June 11, 2025, business meeting to provide a brief summary of the ECM and to answer questions.

### **Business Meeting Participants**

Nikhil Kapur, Supervisor, Standards Tools Development Unit

Haile Bucaneg, Senior Mechanical Engineer, Standards Tools Development Unit

Michael Murza, Senior Attorney

Ana Gonzalez, Attorney

### **Commission Action Requested**

Certification of the Energy Conservation Manual.

Adopt findings that the Energy Conservation Manual is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).